



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., 1st District

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Abele's Budget Math Off by \$2.5 Million

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Chris Abele provided the County Board with an unbalanced budget on Monday, because he failed to apply his proposed fringe benefits increase to all the appropriate job classifications.

“The County Executive’s unbalanced budget has a \$2.5 million hole in it,” said Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. “County Executive Abele has already proposed an increase in property taxes, plus a \$60 wheel tax, leaving few options for fixing his \$2.5 million error.”

Abele has proposed filling the \$2.5 million hole by using the County’s debt service reserve fund.

“Abele’s budget fits a familiar pattern, where he proposes spending increases but doesn’t include a plan for how to pay for everything he wants.” said Lipscomb.

Abele’s proposed 2014 budget had a [similar \\$1.5 million hole](#) that left his proposal unbalanced.

Abele’s 2017 budget increases the property tax levy by nearly 1.5% to account for growth and introduces a \$60 wheel tax. Budget director Steve Kreklow suggested in a memo to the County Board that the \$2.5 million hole could be filled by again tapping into the debt service reserve, a one-time fix that would increase the county’s structural deficit in future years.